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INFO RUEHILL/AMCONSUL LAHORE 7458
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 03519

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PK
SUBJECT: CASE OF PAKISTANI LAWYER (KAZIM, RAJA)

REFS: (A) STATE 49354; (B) LAHORE 313; (C) STATE
- 23927

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON FEBRUARY 21 POLCOUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA DG FOR AMERICAS AND WESTERN EUROPE TARIQ KHAN AFRIDI TO INFORM HIM THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAS APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF RAJA KAZIM'S SON HAIDER RAJA. HE REQUESTED THE MFA TO FURNISH INFORMATION CONCERNING KAZIM'S WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS SO THAT THE EMBASSY CAN RESPOND TO THE SENATOR.

3. AMCONSUL LAHORE HAS DETERMINED THAT RAJA KAZIM, THE SUBJECT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, AND THE RANA KAZMI MENTIONED IN REF B ARE ONE AND THE SAME INDIVIDUAL. CONFUSION OVER SPELLING IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT JANUARY 10 ACCOUNTS OF HIS ARREST IN THE URDU PRESS GIVE HIS NAME AS RAZA KAZIM. AN ANONYMOUS THREE PAGE ACCOUNT OF RAZA KAZIM'S DETENTION BY MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN PASSED TO US BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY. IT WAS HAND DELIVERED TO THEM BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. WE HAVE POUCHED COPIES TO NEA/PAB AMSELEM AND TO HA.

4. RUMORS AMONG JOURNALISTS IN ISLAMABAD LINK KAZIM WITH THE JANUARY 4 RAID IN LAHORE IN WHICH A LARGE AMOUNT OF WEAPONS, HASHISH AND BULLION WAS RECOVERED. KAZIM'S BACKGROUND AS A POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS ARRESTED IN LAHORE JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ARMS SEIZURE APPEAR TO BE THE BASIS FOR THESE RUMORS. RAWALPINDI ATTORNEY ASIF WARDAK ALSO HAS ASSERTED THAT KAZIM WAS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF BEING INVOLVED IN WHAT HE CALLED AN "ASSASSINATION PLOT." HINTON
END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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